1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi	Oct. 2007	Nov. 2008	4.6.2009	18.6.09	The proposal was incomplete therefore not forwarded to DCI during 2008-09. After receiving ' the requisite documents, the proposal was sent to DCI for the year 2009-10.
4.	Yunus Fazlaini Unani Medical College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	28.4.2008	19.5.2008	5.3.2009	15.6.09	Delay was due to Code of Conduct which came into effect during Lok Sabha Elections
5.	Shri Dhanvantri Ayurvedic Medical College, and Research Centre, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.	30.4.2008	29.5.2008	13.3.2009	16.6.09	Delay was due to Code of Conduct which came into effect during Lok Sabha Elpctions

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Effect of increasing Desert, Arid and Barren land area on Agriculture

711. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the statistics of desert, arid and barren land area in the country and in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is increase in above land areas over the years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to check degradation/desertification of land;

(e) how far agricultural production has decreased on account of increase in above areas; and

(f) whether any new schemes/agro-practices have been chalked out to boost agricultural production in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) It is estimated that the barren & uncultivable land in the country is 17.44 million ha. of which 2.43 million ha. is in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Barren & uncultivable land in the country has decreased from 38.16 million ha. in 1950-51 to 17.44 million ha. in 2006-07.

(d) Government is implementing various watershed development programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR) (iii) Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soil (RADAS) (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) (v) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) (vi) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) (vii) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and (viii) National Afforastation & Eco-Development Project (NAEP) through different Ministries in the country for management and development of the degraded lands.

(e) Agricultural production has increased in the country in the recent years.

(f) Government is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for boosting the agriculture production in the country including such areas.

Implementation of irrigation projects

712. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one third of our cultivable land is irrigated at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what effective steps are proposed to be taken to implement various irrigation projects within a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) During 2006-07, 33,3% of the total Cultivable Land at all India level was irrigated.

(b) The details of State-wise Cultivable land, Net Irrigated land, Percentage of Net Irrigated land for the Year 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

Financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) is extended to States for creation of irrigation potential by completion of identified ongoing irrigation projects. 265 major/ medium irrigation projects and 9852 surface water minor irrigation schemes have been . included under AIBP. Out of these, 100 major/ medium irrigation projects and 5805 surface water minor irrigation schemes have been completed up to 31st March, 2009.

The AIBP is also meeting the demands of the Bharat Nirman programme under which a major thrust on irrigation is included.

38 projects of the 65 major/ medium projects of the Prime Minister's relief package for agrarian distressed districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra received financial assistance under AIBP upto March, 2009.